



SIMONE JAFFE COLLINS
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

07.05.2005

South Bethlehem Greenway

SJC# 04076.10

PUBLIC MEETING #6 - MINUTES

Date/Time: 06.22.2005, 3 PM

Location: Forte Building

In Attendance: See Attached Attendance Sheet

Notes:

1. Peter S. started the meeting by reviewing the project schedule, pointing out that there will be a public review period of the draft plan for one month. He stressed how important it is for the public to review the draft report and respond with their comments and criticisms. It was stated that the report would be available for review on Monday, June 27 at City Hall, the City Library, and on the City web site: www.bethlehem-pa.gov.
2. Peter S. reviewed the project area and described the characteristics of the three segments: Eastern – Linear Corridor, Central – Commercial / Residential Area, and Western – Public Events Area.
3. Peter S. presented the Greenway Master Plan, focusing on the major improvements such as the trail, skate park, neighborhood connections, trail heads, surface parking, multiuse plaza, and structured parking.
4. He concluded the presentation pointing out that the next step for the City is to secure funding; stating that the final master plan meeting would focus more on the grants that are available for funding. He stated that during the next couple of months the public should contact their elected officials to let them know how important the Greenway Project is to the City of Bethlehem and the Southside Community. The meeting was opened to the public's comments and questions.
5. Question. How wide will the trail be?
6. Peter S. stated that at a minimum the path would be a 12' wide asphalt surface. He suggested that with multiple user types such as: bikers, rollerblades, skateboarders, runners, and strollers a trail might be wider, 14 to

16 feet. He stated that the wider the path the lesser the likelihood of a user conflict.

7. Question. How will the Rt. 412 widening project affect the Greenway?
8. Peter S. stated that the widening of Rt. 412 from the Minsi Trail Bridge to Founder's Way would be a good opportunity for a Partnership between BethWorks and the City that would benefit the Greenway. He stated that allowing 12' of the ROW to be used for the road widening would still leave enough room for a gracious Greenway.
9. It was stated that the Greenway did not meet the needs for active recreation in the Southside Community.
10. Peter S. stated that the Greenway was not large enough to fit most regulation sports fields; however in planning the trail alignment, SJC kept the trail to one side of the ROW. This will allow for open lawn spaces where spontaneous active recreation could take place such as tossing a frisbee or throwing a football.
11. Question. Could the Third Street Ramp be reused for pedestrians once the new ramp is completed?
12. Peter S. stated that the ramp would most likely be preserved for pedestrian use and that it could be considered as an alternative location for the skate park.
13. It was requested that copies of the report also be placed for review at the Southside Library Branch.
14. Question. To whom should comments on the draft report be directed?
15. Darlene H. stated that there were forms on the City's web site that could be filled out and submitted to the City, or comments could be sent to the City Office.
16. Question. Was the replacement project of the Lynn Ave Bridge considered in the planning of the Greenway?
17. Peter S. stated that it had been and that the key issue to consider in the new design of the bridge would be adequate sidewalks to allow for good access to the Greenway.
18. Question. When would the Greenway be useable to the public?
19. Peter S. stated that it was the vision of the City to make the Greenway useable as quickly as possible. He suggested that once the ROW is acquired basic grading and seeding could take place to create a useable green space for the community.
20. Question. What would happen to existing trees and mature vegetation in the Greenway?

21. Peter S. stated that in some areas existing vegetation might be removed to make room for improvements such as in the widening of Daly Avenue. He also stated that some vegetation may appear to be an asset when in fact it may be an undesirable invasive plant species.
22. It was suggested that an inventory of the existing vegetation should be done to ensure that there are no rare plant materials within the proposed Greenway. It was also stated that there is a large deer population around the Southside community and that deer resistant plantings should be considered.
23. Question. Would the former pedestrian bridge over Daly Avenue at the Minsi Trail Bridge be replaced?
24. Peter Simone stated that there were no plans to replace the pedestrian bridge.
25. It was requested that the final report stress the positive effects that Greenways have on communities and neighborhoods; in specific helping to create a safer environment.
26. Question. How long would it be until construction on the Greenway is started?
27. Peter S. stated that once the ROW is acquired by the City the next step will be for the City to secure funding for the construction of the Greenway. Once the funding is secured time will be spent on the design, engineering, and documentation of the Greenway. In all it could be expected that construction on major improvements would start in 2 to 2 ½ years.

Next Public Meeting: October (Date and Locations TBD)

Respectfully Submitted,
SIMONE JAFFE COLLINS, INC.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Sarah R. Leeper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Sarah R. Leeper